

REMARKS

Claims 1-48 were pending in the present application. Claim 48 has been allowed. By virtue of this response, Claims 1-21, 31, and 41-47 have been cancelled and Claims 22, 27-29, 32 and 35 have been amended. Accordingly, Claims 22-30, 32-40 and 48 are currently under consideration. Amendment and cancellation of certain claims is not to be construed as a dedication to the public of any of the subject matter of the claims as previously presented. No new matter has been added.

Claim 48 was allowed and Claims 22-30 objected to. The remaining claims were rejected. This amendment puts the case in condition for allowance by cancelling the rejected claims and putting Claim 22 in independent form. Claims 32-40, earlier dependent on (rejected) independent Claim 31, are now as amended dependent on allowable base Claim 22. Hence this case is now in condition for allowance and this amendment is entitled to entry under § 1.116.

CONCLUSION

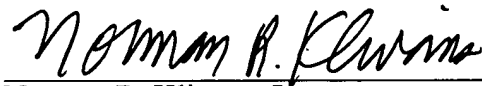
Applicant has, by way of the amendments and remarks presented herein, made a sincere effort to overcome rejections and address all issues that were raised in the outstanding Office Action and put this case in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested. If it is determined that a telephone conversation would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

In the unlikely event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, Applicant(s) petition(s) for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Assistant Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952** referencing docket no. 544792000200.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: July 11, 2003

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